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TO THE

INTELLIGENT PUBLIC.

"Truth, though once buried, shall again be brought to light."

Having in my last refuted many of the false reports had in circulation against the Latter Day Saints and their Doctrines; (unless the public choose to believe in denunciations made without proof; I have refuted all,) having cleared away great heaps of rubbish; also, feeling confident that there are many sincere, honest, and intelligent persons who desire truth, and are enquiring after the same; and being desirous of putting them in possession of that priceless pearl, I will endeavor to do so, inasmuch, as God shall assist me in the undertaking. Should we call in question any of the doctrines, or practices, entertained by Christendom, that have been rendered popular by custom, and sacred by age; we are fully aware, that it would, "by many," be considered art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood hath not REVEALED it unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven," (18th ver.) "and I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon THIS ROCK I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Now, every one that can understand the English language, can at once perceive, that Jesus was addressing himself directly to Peter, of or about something under the representation of the Rock. Christ was not speaking of himself, nor of Peter, nor about him. He did not say to Peter, upon *you* I will build my Church, neither did Jesus say to Peter, upon myself will I build my Church, but "upon THIS Rock," &c.

The great question then is, what was Jesus speaking to Peter of, or

presumption, if not blasphemy. Nevertheless, as I shall produce [illegible] Reason, and the Word of God for support, I shall have nothing to fear. However, knowing that the minds of the people have been poisoned, and that they are very much prejudiced to us as a people, we do not expect that the doctrines promulgated by us will be believed, neither received, unless they are clearly demonstrated by the word of God, and perhaps not then. Notwithstanding this we *venture* to introduce one great and all important subject, which involves the fate of all christendom; viz., the Rock or foundation on which the Church of Christ must be built. Question? what is that rock or foundation that our Saviour had reference to? recorded by St. Matthew, xvi. ch, 18th vs. One portion of professing Christians (Roman Catholic) say, that Peter is the rock, another portion (Protestants) that IT IS Christ. Now if our readers will turn to the same chapter and read, commencing at the 13th verse, they will find that Jesus asked his disciples a question? they answered it, but not satisfactorily, (see 11th verse,) consequently, Jesus put the question pointedly, (see verse 13th,) "but whom say ye that I am?" (see 16th ver.) "And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," (see ver. 17.) "And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed think if you should hear a master-builder say to another person, and upon you I will build my house or church, or if you should hear him about, under the representation of the "Rock?" Why! Jesus says to Peter, "flesh and blood hath not REVEALED it unto thee;" but, he (Peter) had *received* a "REVELATION" from his (Christ's) Father, which is in Heaven, "and upon THIS ROCK, I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." What Rock? Why! the Rock of "REVELATION," that is what Christ was speaking to Peter about, and not of himself, nor of Peter.

Therefore! if learned Theologians should persist in their course, and still say that Christ is the Rock, or that Peter is the Rock; and that "REVELATION" is not under the representation of the "Rock;" we would ask our readers if they do not believe, that Jesus Christ is the Master Builder? O, yes, says the reader, most decidedly. If so, then Christ cannot be the "Rock," but through His intercession He originates the foundation ("Rock") on which He builds His Church. And again, we would ask if Peter was not a portion of the building? every one would answer certainly he was; very well! if so, then Peter (poor fallible mortal man) could not be the Rock. There is manifest weakness, in so saying, he being part of the Building, and there is evident incongruity in confounding the builder, with the foundation he builds on.

Dear reader, what would you *will be the* FIRST OFFICES, constituting the Organization of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Can any of the wise Theologians of

say, and upon myself I will build my house or church, would you not think he had lost his senses, if he ever had any, and that he was only fit for the Insane Asylum? But, should you hear a master-builder say to another person, and upon this or that Foundation, or "Rock," I will build my Church, or House, you would then understand him, and could comprehend his meaning. Should a doubt still remain on the mind of any one upon this point, let them read what Paul says to the Ephesians (iii. and 20th ver.) upon the subject: "And (ye) are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ, himself, being the chief corner stone." Paul does not here inform the Church, that they were built upon Peter, nor upon Christ, but he tells them that they were built *upon the foundation* of the Apostles & Prophets —Jesus Christ, himself, being the chief corner-stone. Christ being the Mediator, the Author and Giver of *Revelation which constitutes the Foundation of the Church.* Therefore! Christ is the chief corner-stone, for without him there is no mediation, and without mediation no Revelation, nor Foundation; consequently, no Apostles and Prophets; and therefore, no Church of Christ.

Why did Paul tell the Ephesians that they were built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets? because! says Paul; in his Epistle to the Cor. xii. 28th verse. And God hath set some in the Church, FIRST APOSTLES, secondarily PROPHETS, &c. These being this enlightened age, tell us what constitutes Apostles and Prophets? Can they exist at all, previous to Revelation and Prophecy being given? has any one of them ever seen, or heard, or read of Apostles and Prophets, before they received Revelation and Prophesied? No. We boldly answer no! Therefore! the *Rock of* REVELATION IS *the great Foundation* of the Church of Christ.

Now having shown from the word of God, and sound logical reasoning that neither Jesus Christ nor Peter is the Rock but that Christ, the master Builder (the chief corner stone), originates the Rock of Revelation, the sure Foundation on which the Church of Jesus Christ was to be built. The question is then, have the sectarian world built their numerous churches on that Foundation "Rock;" or have they laid another, and built upon it? We are FORCIBLY DRIVEN TO THE LATTER MELANCHOLY CONCLUSION. But should learned reverend gentlemen and doctors of divinity still contend that their *numerous creeds and churches* are built upon the Foundation "Rock," let us enquire, do they with their adherents believe in Revelation? They answer that they do, but *in* NO *modern* Revelation!! No; they *scoff* and *ridicule* the very idea of Revelation in these days, and not only that but *mock, scorn,* and *persecute those whom God has sent with a message of mercy to them.*

But to return to our subject: *Great self-wise* learned theologians in this age of the world, make

the FIRST Officers which God set in the Church, therefore they constitute the Foundation, of the Church, so far as human aid or instrumentality is concerned.—But *not the Rock of Revelation, which* Christ was speaking to Peter about, on which, He would buil His Church: For the Apostles and Prophets, themselves constituted a portion of the Church, *they* were *built upon the Rock of Revelation*, the great *sure Foundation* of the Church of Christ: *They were the First that God set in the Church;* THEY ARE THE FIRST; *and always enlightened age of the world!!!* We are *living* right in the blaze of Christianity!!! These things are done away as no longer necessary; they ceased with the Apostles (being no longer needed by learned divines;) say they "*miracles* were only given in the *first ages to establish Christianity, and then ceased, being no longer necessary.*" Now IT *is* NOT THE OBJECT of this treatise to show that the Canon of Scripture is not full and complete, and that the word of God is not sufficient for the salvation of mankind; but to show how far Christendom believes in and practises what the Bible contains, so far as our examination extends. The great question then, to be decided is, did Apostles, Prophets, and all inspired officers, which God set in the Church, together with miracles, and all the gifts, powers, and blessings of the Gospel cease with the Apostles, and done away as no longer necessary, with the approbation and blessing of God? (as modern great claims, and pretend to be firm believers in, and practicers of, the doctrines contained in the Bible. O! say they, "we have got the Bible! we have got the Bible!!" THE *Canon of Scripture is* FULL!!!" "And IT *contains* ALL *that God has ever revealed for the salvation of the human family!*" "IT IS QUITE SUFFICIENT!" "We *have* NO NEED of *any* NEW REVELATION!" "We *want* no more Prophets!" WE HAVE *got* ALL THAT IS *necessary* for our *salvation! There is to be no more* REVELATION! There is to be no more Prophets!! *These* THINGS *are not necessary in this* CONFUSION and STRIFE. (Verse 12), "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but THEN face to face," (WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME,) "now we know in part; *(when* we prophecy in part) "but THEN shall I know even as I am known," (WHEN *that* WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME.) "We will notice next 1st Cor. xii. 28th verse, "And GOD HATH SET SOME IN THE CHURCH, FIRST APOSTLES, SECONDLY PROPHETS, thirdly Teachers after that MIRACLES, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." Should any wish to know how *long they were to continue in the Church,* let them read. But WHEN *that* WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME; THEN (not before) Prophecying in part, and consequently Apostles, Prophets, and Miracles, &c: shall be done away, as no longer necessary. We will now call the attention of the reader to Paul's Epistle to the Pphesians iv., commencing at the 11th verse, "And Ae gave some Apostles; and some

false teachers assert) ; or have they *ceased in consequence of unbelief*, wickedness, and abominations of mankind? True we read in 1st Cor. xiii. 5th verse, that " charity never faileth : but whether there be PROPHECIES, THEY SHALL FAIL; whether there be tongues THEY SHALL CEASE ; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." But it does not read that they shall cease with the Apostles, and be done away as no longer necessary. But let us not stop here, least we fall into the same " DELUSION," as the before-mentioned teachers. Let us not be afraid to read Scripture, but let us read the context, then we shall find out the PRECISE TIME WHEN they were to cease, and be done away as no longer necessary.

(Verse 9), For " we know in part, and prophecy in part ;" (verse 10), " But WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME, THEN THAT WHICH IS IN PART SHALL BE DONE AWAY." Do *modern Teachers of the different* SECTS, want to make the People believe, THAT THEY ARE THAT PERFECTION, which Paul the Apostle had reference to? WHICH WAS TO COME, and that " THEN " PROPHECYING IN *part*, and knowing in part shall be done away? if so, they certainly exhibit a bad sample, which in itself, is synonymous to PERFECT Prophets; and some Evangelists; plans and institutions surpasses those which God has instituted, for that express purpose. There is still another great reason why God places the before mentioned Functions with those who exercised them in the Church, which we find recorded and some Pastors, and Teachers ; what did Christ give them for? Let us read the 12th verse " FOR THE PERFECTING *of* THE SAINTS, for the work of the Ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ " From this we learn the very object for which God set them in the Church. Very well says one, but how long were they to continue? do you mean to tell us, that they were to continue after the Apostles Day? *Yes, we do* wish to be understood that they were to continue until THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME ; or in other words, as we read in the 13th verse, " TILL WE ALL COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Now we ask have the numerous *Sects* of the day, ALL COME IN THE UNITY *of the* FAITH ? &c. *are they that* PERFECTION, which Paul said *was to come?* before Apostles and Prophets, miracles, gifts of healing, &c. should " cease," or be " done away," as no longer necessary ? If they are not, *then they* have " done away as no longer necessary," the very means which God instituted " *for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the Ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ,*" consequently never can come in the Unity of the Faith, unless their is their only rule of faith and guide ! ! We ask, who has authorised any of them to organise and set in the Church, first, Arch-Bishop, secondarily, Bishops, &c. ? or, who has authorised any one to organise and set in the Church, first, Pope, se-

in the 14th verse of the same chapter. "THAT WE HENCEFORTH BE NO MORE CHILDREN TOSSED TO AND FRO, AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY THE SLEIGHT OF MEN, AND CUNNING CRAFTINESS, WHEREBY THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE." No wonder then, that professed Christians are "*tossed to and fro*, and *carried about with every wind of Doctrine;* since they have done away as no longer necessary, the very MEANS *instituted by God*, in order to prevent them from being *children* tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of Doctrine, &c., no wonder then, that they are divided and subdivided into hundreds of different Sects; no wonder that they have never been able to come in the Unity of the Faith.

No wonder then that they cannot decide and know for a certainty, what "Rock" it was that Christ would build His Church upon. Therefore! having shown, and clearly demonstrated the fact, that Apostles and Prophets, and those functions exercised by them; were not to cease with the Apostles, and be done away as no longer necessary, as modern False Teachers affirm. But, WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME, OR WHEN WE ALL COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH! (not Faiths, but Faith!)

We will conclude by proposing a few questions to some of those wise Divines, who are eminent for learning and talent, to answer, (but we could like to have them refer us to chapter and verse,) providing we do not answer them correctly. If condarily, Cardinal, &c.? They tell us that God has given NO Revelation for the last Eighteen Hundred Years, (since John.) Therefore! all organizations that differ from those recorded in the Bible; evidently are Man's own institution; inasmuch, as they have been established since God (as they say) has ceased to give Revelation.

Reader let us compare the different organizations, and then we shall see the contrast:—

The Organization of the Church of God.	The Organization of the Church of Men.
1st Cor. xii. 28th "And God hath set some in the Church: FIRST Apostles, secondarily Prophets, thirdly Teachers; after that Miracles; then gifts of healings, help, governments, diversities of tongues," &c.	And man hath set some in the Church: FIRST Pope, secondarily Cardinal, &c. &c. Again, and man hath set some in Church, FIRST Archbishop, secondarily Bishops, thirdly Deans, after that wisdom of men, learning; then follows confusion, and strife, &c.

Let every denomination who profess to believe the Bible, be brought to that *test*, for what will apply to one, will apply to all who do not believe in continued Revelation.

And again, what part of the Bible is it that authorises any of them to Christen or Baptize little Children before they are capable of HEARING AND BELIEVING THE GOSPEL? And if they have not got a NEW REVELAAION, will they please point out the Chapter and Verse, that authorise them to "Preach for Hire and Divine for Money?" If they have, in behalf of the People, in the name of Israel's God, we cal

we admit us they say, that "the Canon of Scripture is full!" "that the Bible contains all that God ever revealed for the Salvation of Man!" "that it is quite sufficient!" that God has not given any Revelation for the last Eighteen Hundred Years, since John upon the Island of Patmos! And that the Bible upon them to produce it: that we may know that they are built upon the "Rock," the great sure Foundation of the Church of Christ, that the Inhabitants of the Earth may no longer be *deceived!* that they be no more tossed to and fro, and carried about with *every wind of Doctrine.*

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